

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 15 and 16 are independent.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,393,412 to Deep.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A terminal apparatus setting method...

connecting a terminal apparatus to a setting server which is provided for registering with one or more Internet service providers...

receiving, by said terminal apparatus, information regarding said one or more Internet service providers...

selecting a desired one of said one or more Internet service providers...”
(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,393,412 to Deep relates to a method for allowing a user to access a plurality of service providers through a service brokerage via the Internet. The service brokerage establishes accounts with the service providers and the user. Once a user logs in to the service brokerage, the user is presented with a set of private service provider chat rooms that are on-line. The set can be chosen based upon a

predetermined criterion. Once the user selects a chat room of a chosen provider, the service provider must allow the user access to that service provider's chat room. A user profile may be provided to the service provider to aid in the admission process.

At page 3 of the present Office Action, the Examiner stated that Deep "does not explicitly teach enabling users to subscribe [to] an Internet service provider." Applicants submit that a main objective of the present invention is to allow a terminal apparatus to use any desired Internet service provider (ISP) out of a plurality of ISPs. Claim 1 specifically states that a user is first connecting to a setting server (as opposed to an ISP) in order to access numerous ISPs, from which the user is permitted to select one ISP for further services.

In contrast, Deep states that an ISP has already been selected beforehand by a user and via the pre-selected or pre-installed ISP the user can then select services pertaining to that ISP (column 6, lines 48-52). In other words, in the present invention, a user first accesses a neutral server and secondly, through the neutral server, selects any desired ISP. A closer examination of Deep reveals that a user of Deep first connects to an ISP and then selects services related to that ISP. This is a significant distinction between the two inventions and the Examiner should not assume that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art select ISPs. Apparently, it is not obvious to access a remote and neutral server, which contains information on numerous ISPs and also allows a user to select ones of those ISPs.

Applicants submit that Deep does not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of connecting a terminal apparatus to a setting server which is provided for registering with one or more Internet service providers or receiving, by said terminal apparatus, information regarding

said one or more Internet service providers or selecting a desired one of said one or more Internet service providers, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claims 8, 15 and 16 are also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 16 are patentable.

CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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